Friendship

What virtue, or what mental grace,
But men unqualified and base
Will boast it their possession
Profusion apes the noble part
Of liberality of heart,
And dullness of discretion.

If every polish'd gem we find,
Illuminating heart or mind,
Provoke to imitation;
No wonder Friendship does the same,
That jewel of the purest flame,
Or rather constellation.

No knave but boldly will pretend
The requisites that form a friend,
A real and a sound one;
Nor any fool he would deceive,
But prove as ready to believe
And dream that he had found one.

Candid, and generous, and just,
Boys care but little whom they trust,
An error soon corrected—
For who but learns in riper years,
That man, when smoothest he appears,
Is most to be suspected?

But here again a danger lies,
Lest, having misapplied our eyes,
And taken trash for treasure,
We should unwarily conclude
Friendship a false ideal good,
A mere Utopian pleasure.

An acquisition rather rare
Is yet no subject of despair;
Nor is it wise complaining,
If either on forbidden ground,
Or where it was not to be found,
We sought without attaining.

No friendship will abide the test,
That stand on sordid interest,
Or mean self love erected;

Nor such as may awhile subsist
Between the sot and sensualist,
For vicious ends connected.

Who seeks a friend should come disposed
To exhibit in full bloom disclosed
The graces and the beauties
That form the character he seeks;
For 'tis a union that bespeaks
Reciprocated duties.

Mutual attention is implied,
And equal truth on either side,
And constantly supported:
'Tis senseless arrogance to accuse
Another of sinister views,
Our own as much distorted.

But will Sincerity suffice?
It is indeed above above all price,
And must be made the basis;
But every virtue of the soul
Must constitute the charming whole,
All shining in there places.

A fretful temper will divide
The closest knot that may be tied
By ceaseless sharp corrosion
A temper passionate and fierce
May suddenly your joys disperse
At once immense explosion.

In vain the talkative unite
In hopes of permanent delight —
The secret just committed,
Forgetting its important weight,
They drop through mere desire to prate,
And by themselves outwitted.

How bright soe'er the prospect seems
All thoughts of friendship are but dreams
If envy chance to creep in;
An envious man if you succeed,
May prove a dangerous foe indeed,
But not a friend worth keeping.

As Envy pines at good possess'd,
So Jealousy looks forth distress
On good that seems approaching;
And, if success his steps attend,
Discerns a rival in a friend,
And hates him for encroaching.

Hence authors of illustrious name,
Unless belied by common fame
Are sadly prone to quarrel,
To deem the wit a friend displays
Are tax upon their own.

On Italy

Italia, too Italia, looking on thee,
Full flashes on the soul the light of ages;
Since the fierce Carthagenian almost won thee,
To the last halo of the chiefs and Sages,
Who glorify thy consecrated pages.
Thou art the throne and grave of empires: still
The fount at which the human mind assuages
Her thirst of knowledge, quaffing there her fill,
Flows from the eternal source of Rome's imperial hill.

Childe Harold.

Music

Music! oh how faint how weak,
Language fades before thy spell;
Why should Feeling ever speak
When thou canst breathe her soul so well?

Moore

"From Byron"

Yes, Love indeed indeed is light from heaven
A spark of that immortal fire,
By angel shared, by Alla given,
To raise from earth our low desire.
Devotion wafts the mind above,
But Heaven itself descends in love.
A feeling from the Godhead caught,
To wean from self each sordid thought,
A ray of him who form'd the whole,
A glory circling round the soul.

Modesty

As lamps burn silent with unconscious light,
So modest ease in beauty, shines most bright;
Unaiming charms with edge resistless fall,
And she, she who means no mischief does it all.

Hill

Lines on the death of J. R. Drake

By Croaker of N York

1 Green be the sod above thee,
Friend of my better days;
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise

2 Tears fell when thou wert dying
From eyes unused to weep,
And long where thou art lying,
Shall tears thy cold turf steep,

3 When hearts so formed for heaven,
Like thine are laid in earth,
There should a wreath be woven,
To tell the world their worth

4 And I who rose each morrow
To clasp thy hand in mine,
Whose every joy and sorrow,
Whose weal and wo were mine.

5 It should be mine to braid it,
Around thy faded brow,
But I have oft essayed it,
And find I cannot now.

6 While memory bids me weep thee,
Nor thoughts nor words are free;
That grief is felt too deeply,
That mourns a man like thee.

On Greece

Clime of the unforgotten brave
Whose land from plain to mountain cave
Was Freedoms home or Glorys grave
Shrine of the mighty can it be
That this is all remains of thee
Approach thou craven crouching slave
Say is not this Thermopylae?
These waters blue that round you lave
Pronounce what sea what shore is this
The gulf the rock of Salamis
These scenes their story not unknown
Arise and make again your own
Snatch from the ashes of your sires
The embers of their former fires
And he who in the strife expires
Shall add to theirs a name of fear
That tyrany shall quake to hear.

Byron

Lemuel Stout July 26th 1838

Waterloo

Yes! Agincourt may be forgot,
And Cressy be an unknown spot,
And Blenheims name be new,
But still in story and in song,
For many an age remembered long,
Shall live the Towers of Hougomont,
And Field of Waterloo.

Scott

July 26th 1838)

Vive la Plume!

Sabbath Morning

How calm comes on this holy day!
Morning unfolds the eastern sky,
And upward takes her lofty way
Triumphant to her throne on high.
Earth glorious wakes, as o'er her breast
The morning flings her rosy ray,
And blushing from her dreamless rest,
Unveils her to the gaze of day;
So still the scene, each wakeful sound
Seems hallowed music breathing round

The night-winds to their mountain caves,
The morning mists to heaven's blue steep,
And to their ocean depths, the waves
Are gone, their holy rest to keep.
'Tis tranquil all — around — above —
The forests far, which bound the scene,
Are peaceful as their Maker's love,
Like hills of everlasting green;
And clouds like earthly barriers stand
Or bulwarks of some viewless land.

Each tree that lifts its arm in air,
Or hangs its pensive head on high,
Seems bending at its morning prayer,
Or whispering with the hours gone by.
This holy morning, Lord, is thine—
Let silence sanctify thy praise,
Let heaven and earth in love combine,
And morning stars their music raise;—
For tis the day—joy—joy—ye dead,
When death and hell were captive led.

Ann E Culin Nov 26th 1841

Christ in the Tempest

Storm on the midnight waters! the vast sky
Is stooping with the thunder. Cloud on cloud
Reels heavily in the darkness, like a shroud
Shook by some warning spirit from the high
And terrible wall of Heaven. The mighty wave
Tosses beneath is shadow, like the bold
Upheavings of a giant from the grave,
Which bound him prematurely to his cold
And desolate bosom. Lo—they mingle now—
Tempest and heaving wave, along whose brow
Trembles the lightning from its thick cloud fold.

And it is very terrible! The roar
Ascendeth unto Heaven, and thunders back
Like a response of demons, from the black
Rifts of the hanging tempests—yawning o'er
The wild waves in their torment. Hark! the cry
Of the strong men in peril piercing through
The strong uproar of the waters and the sky;
As the rent bark one moment rides to view,
On the tall billows, with the thunder-cloud
Closing around, above her like a shroud!

He stood upon the reeling deck – His form
Made visible by the lightning, and his brow
Uncovered to the visiting of the storm,
Told of a triumph man may never know –
Power underived and mighty. – Peace be still
The great waves heard him and the stormes loud tone
Went moaning into silence at his will
And the thick clouds where yet the lightning shone
And slept the latent thunder rolled away
Until no trace of tempest lurked behind
Changing upon the pinions of the wind
To stormless wanderers beautiful and gay

Mary Dixey November 27th 1841

"When young, life's journey I began,
The glittering prospect charmed my eyes;
I saw along the extended plain,
Joy after joy successive rise:

But soon I found 'twas all a dream,
And learned the fond pursuit to shun,
Where few can reach the purposed aim,
And thousands daily are undone."

Anna W. Goucher

West Philadelphia Octr 1st 1842

Laurels may flourish round the conqueror's tomb
But happiest they who win the world to come:
Believers have a silent field to fight,
And their exploits are veild from human sight.
They, in some nook, where little known they dwell,
Kneel, pray in faith, and rout the hosts of hell;
Eternal triumphs, crown their toils divine,
And all those triumphs, Mary, now are thine.

Cowper

Pause here, and think: a monitory rhyme
Demands one moment of thy fleeting time;
Consult life's silent clock, thy bounding vein;
Seems it to say—Health here has long to reign?
Hast thou the vigour of thy youth? an eye
That beams delight? a heart untaught to sigh?
Yet fear. Youth oftimes, healthful and at ease,
Anticipates a day it never sees;
And many a tomb, like Hamilton's, aloud
Exclaims, prepare thee for an early shroud.

Oh happy shades—to me unbless'd!
Friendly to peace, but not to me!
How ill the scene that offers rest, agree
And heart that cannot rest agree!

This glassy stream, that spreading pine,
Those alders quivering to the breeze,
Might soothe a soul less hurt than mine,
And please if any thing could please.

But fix'd unalterable Care
Foregoes not what she feels within,
Shows the same sadness every where,
And slights the season and the scene.

For all that pleased in wood or lawn,
While Peace possess'd these silent bowers,
Her animating smile withdrawn,
Has lost its beauties and its powers;

The fruitful scenes and prospects waste
Alike admonish not to roam;
These tell me of enjoyments past,
And those of sorrows yet to come.

Octr 1st 1842. Cowper

By spirit noble, yet by nature serf;
Of heavenly seed begotten here on earth;
God's temple wherein things unclean find room;
Immortal — and yet hastening to the tomb;
Though fed by God — in earthly pastures roving;
Shrinking from ills yet sinful pleasures loving
Cherishing truth — yet not to truth conformed;

This world is all a fleeting show,
For man's illusion given;
The smiles of joy, the tears of woe,
Deceitful shine, deceitful flow
There's nothing true but heaven!

And false the light on glory's plume,
As fading hues of even;
And love, and hope, and beauty's bloom
Are blossoms gathered for the tomb,—
There's nothing bright but heaven!

Poor wanderers of a stormy day,
From wave to wave we're driven,
And fancy's flash, and Reason's ray,
Serve but to light the troubled way—
There's nothing calm but heaven!

Sabbath, Octr 31st 1847.

Anna M. Goucher.

The blessedness of those above,
Why longs my panting soul to know?
For heavenly bliss I know is love,
And love is felt by saints below.

But love so pure exalted high
Beyond compute, beyond compare;
No eagle wing that height may fly,
No mortal breathe that upper air.

The soul from sense must be refined,
From earthly hope, from earthly fear;
No guilty doubt may cross the mind,
No sin nor shame may enter there.

There love springs pure and unrepressed,
There all are loved and love again;
Love fills each swelling cherub breast,
Love fires each burning seraph train.

Oh when shall I this conflict o'er—
From sin be free, with love be fired!
Oh when in Heaven my God adore,
With love celestial! love inspired?

West Philada Octr 31st 1847.

Anna M. Goucher.

Letters of Anna W. Goucher copied by her great niece.

West Philadelphia
~~July~~ 5th, 1837
(Grandpa 19 yrs old)

My dear Brother.

I recived your letter on the 25th of June and would not have delayed writing so long, but was waiting a favorable opportunity to see Mr. Forsyth which I could not accomplish. I went yesterday to the city expressly to see him but himself and family were all gone out, being the 4th of July ~~an answer~~ relative to the time. I believe there is no change for the better if not worse than when you left. there are a great many persons out of employ. and money so scarce to be had, and what we do recive scarcely deserves the name. We have from Five cents bills up to Fifty; for change silver is scarcely to be seen. I am happy you wrote when you did as I was very much distressed on account of your long

silence we were all alarmed for fear
some accident had happened to you particularly
when news reached us that a Steam Boat was
burned and all her crew lost, as we did
not know what course you would pursue
after you reached Pittsburgh. I am very
much rejoiced that you are safe and I
sincerely hope that you may be successful
in your pursuit, and may find employment
without going a very great distance from us
you wrote that you intend going further
west, if so continue to write whenever
favorable opportunity presents and whenever
you write always let us know exactly
what are your prospects without
flattering us as I shall always feel particularly
interested in your welfare. We are all
well at present and situated about the
same as when you left us. I continue
teaching school in the same place, I have
not sent for your trunk yet but intend to
as soon as the men have leisure to go to
the city. they have been engaged in the Village
all this season about a building of Moniers a
Frenchman. You do not say whether you

made any stay at Pittsburgh nor whether
you could get any employ. I have nothing
interesting to write as I do not associate
with the village as it is such a tattling
place that every word that is said is mis-
represented when told again. Next Saturday
I intend making a visit to Uncle Fishers and
spend Sunday. I have seen them all lately
they are well and send their best wishes
for your welfare Mr. Johnson and with all
the family send their respects to you and also
their best wishes for your safe return which
I sincerely hope is not far distant. Continue
to tread the path of virtue and I have no
doubt you will be successful in all your
undertaking, put your trust in the Almighty
for he has promised never to forsake those
put their trust in him, and also he will
be a Father to the Fatherless and we are sure
His promises are immutable they cannot
change if we will believe and obey His
instructions.

Julia Heston it is said is to be married this fall to a
Mr. Heech she will be his third wife.

Your Affectionate Sister
Anna Wa Goucher

Mr. Charles Goucher
Write soon and often AWG

West Philadelphia May 20, 1849

Sir,

As my anxiety relative to my Brother Charles, has become intense, reading daily the news from the South and West, giving accounts of the ravages made by the Cholera, and not having received a letter from my Brother since January, I have been compelled to adopt this course. Charles stated in his last letter that he was not well, and the Cholera then raging at Centreville. I wrote an answer immediately on receiving his but as yet have received no answer. I hope my anxiety will plead an apology for the liberty I have taken in addressing you. If you have heard of my Brother or know where he is at present, you will confer a great favor by writing an answer as soon as you receive this.

My mind is made up to hear the worst, should he have fallen a victim to the ravages of disease, though I will continue to hope that such is not the fact until I hear from you. The Cholera has reached New York, and has proved fatal in several cases. Should Charles be living and residing at your place, please notify him that

I have not received a letter from him for several months.

Very Respectfully
Anna W. Goucher

Mr. John C. Elliott

P.S. Please direct to me at West Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pa.

A copy of land partition made
by.

We the subscribers chosen and mutually agreed upon by William Goucher, Francis Goucher, and Samuel Goucher, to make partition of the real Estate of Thomas Goucher late of Blockley Township in the County of Philadelphia, having met and reviewed the same, and having (respect) to quantity and quality, we did part and divide the same in three parts as follow, Viz. No1 Beginning &c (as per draft annexed including the new Mill &c to the liberty of building a new Dam on the Creek above, so as to Swell the water up to the line of Israel Morris' The Dam when built is to be made sufficient for a Waggon or Cart to pass over the vale, and forever to be kept so for the use of Samuel Goucher passing to and from one part of the farm to the other, containing thirteen acres one Rood & thirty one perches, which we have valued, and appraised at five Thousand eight hundred Dollars and allotted and assigned the same to William Goucher

No 2. Beginning &c (including the old mill dwellings &c to make up and forever keep

in good repair, the wall of the upper dam, (reserving the right of drawing the water out of the same, from time to time for his convenience) on the Creek above, sufficient for a Waggon or Cart to pafs over the same, for the use of Samuel Goucher pafsing from one part of the farm to the other; Containing thirteen acres three Roods & thirty perches, which we have valued and and appraised at six thousand seven hundred Dollars and allotted & afsigned the same to Francis Goucher

No 3. Beginning &c (Including the Farm) containing Eighty five Acres three Roods seventeen perches including half an Acre, which is to be reserved for the family for a Burying place, which we have valued and appraised at Four thousand five hundred dollars and allotted and afsigned the same to Samuel Goucher. Witnefs our hands the 18th day of March One thousand eight hundred & nine

Abram Heston

A copy of the title of property in Blockley Township

A Draught of a Tract of land in the Liberties of Philadelphia. Surveyed the fourth of the Sixth month 1700 unto Thomas Story, attorney to Joseph Pike pursuant to the prop. Gen. Gov. Warrant bearing Date the 25th day of the 5 mo. 1700 Containing 100 acres is accordingly returned into the secretaries office this 25th Day of the 6 mo. 1700

pr me Edwd Penington Surv. Genl

A true Copy of the Original Draught agreeing with the Bounds of the Said Land as in the patent for the same. Recorded in the office at Philadelphia

By me Tho. Story Mr. Rec

Recorded in the Rolls office at Philadelphia in patent Book A. Vol. 2. page 241 or 4. 245 yr. 9th - 3d month 1702.

By me Thom. Story Mr. Rec

Seal 6-6
46 [illegible] 3-10
[illegible] 1. 3
£ 11. 1

A plot of Land Belonging Pike land Company Situate in Blockley Township Philadelphia County Surveyd and divided into Lots 4th & 5th days of April 1791

By Benjaman Jacobs.

Copy of letter of Anna Goucher to her brother, Charles: age 24

West Philadelphia, Pa. March 7th 1847

Dear Brother—

I received your letter bearing date Feb'r 2nd about the 16th of the month, which was about a week later than it should have been if it had come direct, this is one of the reason why you have not received an answer to youre before this, another is, the weather has been so inclement, and the Roads so very bad that I could not see the Girls, until yesterday, when I succeeded. Maria is entirely well of the chills, and looks quite well again. It was the opinion of the Physician, last spring, and summer that she had the Liver complaint, and was of the opinion that she could not recover, however she has been restored to health, contrary to all our expectations. Harriet, is very well. I heard from Thomas yesterday, he is well, and is still working with, John Smith, they are engaged at present repairing a house for Stephen Paschall at Marion, where he had moved, about a year since. I believe I told you Stephen's wife was deceased, also his son, he is no making preparations to marry Ann Sharpless, all

the friends at Hook are well and wish to be remembered to you, Elizabeth Shotwell and family have removed to Cincinnati, Ohio this fall. they first went to Kentucky, to see her brother, Thomas West. Thomas Keen is married and lives either in Kentucky or Tennessee, I have forgotten which of the two places. Aunt Harriet and Hannah, are well and live in this place, Augustus has grown up, to very worthless. I think he has not good sense, if he has he puts it to a bad use. I have not seen any person from Haddington, or heard from there since I last wrote, you spoke in your letter of coming home this spring, we all wish very much that you would, we think that you could as well get a living here as any other place, we would like very much that you make the trial,

I am very glad that you have not engaged in the horrid war, a great number of young men of this place volunteered, but I have learned that a number of them have regretted it long since, but are ashamed to return. I am still in the same school, West Philadelphia has improved very much since you left, the Permanent Bridge is free from toll, and a line of omnibuses run to the city every half hour, so that numbers have removed from the city here. I cannot think of anything at present that would be interesting so will close, y the seal of your letter was loose when it came to hand, I examined it closely, and think it was the fault of wafer, but am not sure that it was. I have thought perhaps the Post master was not sure to whom it belonged, as there is in this place another person by the name of Ann Goucher, and my name is always written Anna W. Goucher, I think it was sent to her first, and then returned, You will ask who she is, there is a family live at Powelton on the Turnpike, who came I understand from Europe. I have had two of their children at school, Please be careful how you direct

Yours affectionately
Anna W. Goucher
West Philadelphia
Pa.

Sabbath afternoon
P.S. Please write as soon as convenient

Copy of letter written by Samuel Goucher, (father of Charles Goucher) to Ann W. Goucher, his daughter.

Emmitsburg, State of Maryland, Sept. 30, 1833.

My dear Ann

At this Stage of my Perigrations Being anxious to hear of your welfare, i commence writing partly to inform you i am well, which is nearly the amount of information i can give you, as regards my-self, further than that i am a wonder to myself (not feeling the slightest dejection, and here i should feel myself condemned where i not to say that i have been supported by the almighty, who tempereth the storm, to the shorn Lamb; i have visited Lancaster, columbia, Harrisburg, York haven, Little York, Gettesburg, besides a number of minor towns, as also the sisters of charity, near this place, and yesterday was at meeting on the South Mountain, about Six miles from the place, and heard a Moravian minister preach, perhaps what has passed, has been intended for good, indeed i firmly believe it I intend, setting out this day for Pittsburg at which place, i hope to hear from you.

whether i shall stop there, further than to
hear from you, i know not, indeed i know not
yet, where i may find a resting place, only this
i know, that i am irresistably, impelled, to
proceed, nor suffered to look back, but to my
children; but to Proceed, to the more immediate
purpose of this letter, i wish you to see Thomas
and get him to inquire, of Charles, if he is
satisfied, with his situation, and if so to
inform Bascon, to forward, to Pittsburg, an
article of agreement, founded on the following,
Basis, and i will copy it and forward, the
exchange to him;
Mr Bascon, is to give Charles, one year Schooling
three Months, of which, he is to recieve the year;
and two weeks in each and every year, for
harvest, that he may obtain money for him-
self, as also in the spring and fall of each
and every year, he shall be allowed four days,
both spring and fall, to visit his brothers and
sisters, that you be not estranged from
each other, the said Bascon, is also to find
him, the said Charles, good every day or
working clothes, as well as good Sunday
Clothes, with regard to Clothes, the impressions
were he would give him as good as he wore
himself. and the said Franklin Bascon, further
agrees, to give him, the said Charles, when of age,
a freedom suit, the worth of which shall be
Thirty dollars, endeavor to see Thomas, and tell
him i will write to him, directed to the
West Philadelphia post office, it is just this
side the Permanent Bridge, and here let
me advise you if your grandmother should
die in my absence, immediately to see a lawyer,
and let him enter a Caveat against It, that is
supposing her to have left it, to Harriet Keens
children, as i have understood to be the case, and
be not backward to do this, it will cost but
five dollars. it must be attended to immediately.
almost as soon as the will is read, attend
strictly to this.

I wish to know who gets the mason
and carpenter work of the meeting house at
Haddington hasten the answer to this letter
ever be the Children of one Family see Thomas
let him and Charles see Maria indeed I am
by no means satisfied with her situation.

Your ever Affectionate
Miss Ann Goucher Father Samuel Goucher

Fareyouwell i cannot say for how long
P.S. You can dr[illegible] the condition in my and Charles off of this
and [illegible] for Thomas be sure not to forget any of them.

(over)

(These notes were on the sides of the letter)

The Daughter of my cousin Rebecca Zimmerman, formerly Harr

: Is only five feet Nine Inches high and is sixteen years old. one of nine living (children) her name Mary Caroline Zimmerman

(Note on front sheet)

I wish you all to avoid L. Fraily as you would avoid a friend of the Bottomless pit A Thousand such Souls as his might dance on the point of a Cambric needle. i cannot here tell you of the [illegible] of that man's conduct.

(Outside letter)

Miss Anna W. Goucher
Care of Mrs Ann West
Philadelphia
No 186 Fourth above Gallowhill st

EMMITSBURG MD Sept 20

1833

First letter

Copy.

West Philada. March 14th 1848

Dear Brother:

I received your letter on Saturday morning at an early hour, and would not have delayed a ~~minute~~ moment in answering it, but thought it would be best to defer it, until I could visit Aunt Harriet, herself, and Hannah are well. Augustus is still at the hospital not any better, nor no hopes of ever being any better. George Ludwick, attempted to jump off the car, just as it was turning the curve, at Market and Broad St. he fell and two wheels passed over his left arm, crushing so dreadfully, that it had to be amputated just below the shoulder; the Physician administered Chloroform which put him in a stupor, he was insensible to any pain, he is still in the Hospital, not able to be removed, nor sit up yet, he was hurt about three weeks ago, I was down at Hook 4 weeks ago, met with Sister H. there, she has been very severely burnt, and made a narrow escape with her life, Boons and Fishers are all well. Thomas Matthews mother was burned to death this winter, how she took fire is all mystery, a man by the name of Mackinson, living with John Bartram at Kingsessing was scalded to death a few weeks since, with 3 others

on the rail road, the first was going up to Reading to run a horse, the bet $200 dollars; he was to be married when he returned, to Jane Gaul, Maria is well, I have not heard from Thomas and will add, it is not likely that I shall soon, as it appears that he is so completely taken up with the family in which he lives, that I would not be at all surprised, if he were dangerously sick, he or they, would not let me know it, I think it is very unfeeling in him, he has no regard for us, If he had any ambition, he would not permit his sisters to struggle for a living as they have to, I long since would have went to housekeeping if he would have boarded with me in order to have given them a home, but it is useless, finding fault,— I can nothing, with any of them, but will leave them now, to do the best they can, I have made myself very unhappy, grieving about them.

Jacob Hoffman ~~e~~ died on Sunday with Erysipelas he is to be buried or deposited in a vault tomorrow, ~~Susan~~ Naomi Rhoads, was married to a Thomas Walters, of Wilmington, about the 4th of this month Stephen Paschall, is also married, I commenced writing to you on Christmas Day, finished and sent the letter to the post office on New Year's Day as I do not keep a copy any letters that I write do not remember what I wrote which might be interesting to you, as I never go to Haddington of course cannot sence anything from there, there is quite a good deal of building going on here, I have some thought of selling my lot if it will bring $300 dollars, as lumber keeps so very high, that I think it would be best not to build, although I would prefer having a house on it, as I then could open a private school, and not have my mind perpetually harassed with, Directors, I feel sometimes, almost to despair, of ever having any comfort in this world, our lot has been hard, Lydia Boon, is keeping house for, a, Gentleman in this place, her own home is not very comfortable, Mary Fisher, is not yet married, and I doubt whether she will ever be, Write whenever convenient as I always feel happy to hear from you, I am not exactly sick, nor quite well, fear the chills intend making me a visit, I have been very well all winter

Yours affectionately

Anna W. Goucher

West Philadelphia April 23, 1843.
C-age 25

My dear Brother

I received your letter on Friday, which brought the painful intelligence that you are fast declining, and it is doubly painful to know that you are sick, where perhaps there is no kind friend to administer to your wants and necessities, I can sympathize deeply with and for you, as I have experienced the same to a very great extent, my mind is, and has been deeply exercised in your behalf ever since you first went to the West, knowing the temptations there are in the world, to entice and ruin the young, particularly those who have no kind friends to take an interest in their welfare, My dear brother you are not forgotten nor shall be, you have a place in all our hearts, we think and talk of you, and have also written to you, but have been unfortunate as you state you have not received any of them, I have now 3 letters of yours lying before me, two of which I have answered, and the third am answering at present, one directed to Brother Thomas dated May 13th 1841 which my brother did not receive being absent at the time, he was living in Chester Co., I heard there was a letter at the office, took it out and answered it, I have another directed to myself dated Jany 23rd 1842 from Memphis,

Tennessee which did not come to hand until June and only then by accident it was advertised in one of the City papers so that you will at once perceive that we have not been forgetful of you, for my own part I hope the hour will never ~~arrive~~ come in my history when I shall forget you, my prayers have been ascending to Heaven in your behalf that God in tender mercy would protect you and save you from the dangers and snares of this world, and that he would be a friend to you in every time of trouble, and that he would let this Holy spirit operate upon your heart to convince you of the necessity of a preparation of heart to be meet for an inheritance beyond the grave that is incorruptible and that fadeth not away, all things beneath the Sun are passing away, and we with all the rests, none are exempt, therefore it behooves us to prepare for the solemn event, convinced as we are that life is the time to serve the Lord, the time to insure the great reward, as there is no repentance in the grave nor pardon offered to the dead, Oh Charles if you have not seen well to this matter I beseech you to begin the work this very moment call upon God that He may have mercy upon you and forgive you through the atonement of the Blessed Redeemer who is always willing to forgive those who call upon him with a contrite heart, Oh do not put off seeking your souls salvation until a dying hour, you will find you have enough to contend with when death lays his icy arms around you, without praying then, it may be you will be insensible in your last moments, or delirious, if so what a state to be ushered into the presence of that God who is too pure to behold iniquity with the least degree of allowance, and if ~~you~~ we are so unfortunate as to die in our sins where God and Christ are we cannot come, but must hear the awful sentence depart

My dear Charles as it is highly probably we never shall meet again in this world, let us strive to have a happy meeting in that world where sickness and sorrow is an eternal stranger the inhabitants of that happy country have no head and heart aches, no bidding farewell to friends that are as dear to us as our very lives, but there we shall be employed in singing the high anthems, of Redeeming love to him who has washed and made us white in the blood of the Lamb be honour and dominion and power even for ever may this be our happy lot amen,

Your affectionate Sister
Anna W. Gaucher

P.S. Please give me in your next letter the person name with whom you reside also if stand in need of anything, write particularly as I am very anxious & shall be until I hear from you.

(over)

(Recontinued next page)

There has been a great deal of sickness in this place the past year, almost every disease has prevailed and has proved very fatal. at present there is not quite so much sickness. I had a very severe attack of Pleurisy and quinsy just after new year which proved nearly fatal but by the blessing of God I have been partially restored to health, I am not very strong at present but hope when the weather becomes settled I shall get stronger. I think my lungs are affected but have not had medical advice, my heart has been very much affected for two years past, owing to the constant and arduous duty of Teaching a large School. We teach on quite a different plan from what we did formerly. I have at present under my charge from 150 to 175 Scholars with one assistant teacher, the building we occupy has recently been built 3 stories high, the dimensions are 62 feet by 42, which makes room to seat 200 children in each room besides a class for each, there are at present 6 Teachers in the building, and somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 children, it is situated on Chestnut Hill, we have a splendid p spect of the city and environs, from the Cupola we c see Delaware, the place has changed very much within the past two years, a number of buildings have been erected, but at present business has stopped almost entirely the little that is in progress, has to be entirely taken in trade, money can scarcely be obtained at all, there are hundreds out of employ and have been for Months, I have no reason to complain having had constant employ since I returned from Weymouth, which was 2 years the 19th of March last 4 week only in that time, we are all well. Uncle William Fisher has been dead 1 year his son has been married about 2 yrs, they all live together as formerly, Boons the same, Wm Fisher the son was down last spring and staid 12 weeks He is worthless, and cheated several persons in the neighborhood before he left, he is a complete rascal, John Frailey is married to Ann Legis about a year, Susanna to a Methodist Preacher, by the name of Berridge; Hannah is married this spring to Thomas Johnson likewise a M. Preacher {

{Leonard moved this spring to Haddington, has given the farm up to John. Smiths have sold their farm, Andrew married about 18 months. Lewis Trumble wife Sister, Ann Palmer is not married, her father is dead and her brother Phin turned out badly. I have a great deal to say that I have no room for. Your Brother and Sisters all join in sending their love to you, hoping we soon shall hear from you and that you will then be better.

West Philad^{ia} Oct. 4th 1846.

Dear Brother

I received your letter on Wednesday the last day of the month, but put off writing until today, in order to get any information that would be interesting to you, I never was more agreeably surprised in my life than when I found on opening the letter that it came from you, as we had all given up the idea of hearing from you or seeing you, we were all fearful that you were an inhabitant of the Eternal world, from the tenor of the last letter I received from you which stated, that you were fast declining, I answered that immediately it was dated April 15th 1843, since that time we have never received a line from you. You speak of sickness, and sudden death, I believe it is the same everywhere, in this place we have a great many sudden deaths, some by fire, others by drowning, others are found dead cause unknown, others again are taken off suddenly with only a few days sickness, there have several deaths of our acquaintance and friends, since I last wrote to you, Uncle W^{m} Fisher has been dead, two or three years, I do not recollect whether I sent you word or not, Aunt Elizabeth, his wife has sold her place to Jonath Thimple, one of their journeyman, it is reported that he and Mary F. is to be married, Aunt,

and Elisa have two rooms reserved in the house for their use, Thomas Fisher is married and has two children, I believe lives in Horntown, am not sure that is the name of the place, Wm Fisher was on some time since and gave them considerable trouble, Mrs Trites died last Spring, Anna Paschall is dead, by her death Sister Maria lost a good friend, our sisters Maria and Harriet, have each been very sick, last fall we all expected Harriet would not recover, when she recovered Sister Maria was taken sick with intermittent fever, she is better and worse, sometimes she will be clear of chill for two or three weeks, she does not get entirely clear of them, the Physician says her liver is affected, Thomas also I learn has had chills though I have not seen him for 4 years, I cannot assign any reason for this absence, he still boards with Fleckes they live at Monroe Mills, I will give you some particulars concerning myself, I returned from Weymouth March 19th 1841, and opened school in the Basement of the Methodist Church, and taught there a year, the Controllers then built a very large School House on Chestnut Hill, there was an examination for Teachers, I was elected Principal for the Secondary with one assistant, we opened

School on the 10th day of October 1842. four years wanting 6 days, I still remain in the same situation, and will as long as my health permits, I have had the chills for nearly three years, for 18 months I had them very steady sometimes two weeks apart, at others every day, I had two only four weeks ago and feel very like having one again, I had a very severe spell of sickness, the Bilious and Remitting fever, then sunk into lowly Typhus every person that saw me that it would be impossible that I should recover, I did not expect it myself, since that time I have had several attacks, but not so severe. In the spring I had a pretty severe spell at present am pretty well when I have not the chills. Our Cousin Boons are about the same as when you saw them, no change having taken place in the family they are all single, they have built a pretty snug barn, this spring, they inquire very particularly about you and would like very much to see you, I will have to condense matters now, Mrs Bentis is dead, John Fraily has been married a long time to Ann Leger, Susanna and Hannah are married to Methodist Preachers, some person has bought the Mill seat from Haydocks, and has Rebuilt the Manufactory, Wm and Andrew Smith had a quarrel and separated. Andrew then married a sister of Lewis Trumble's wife, Samuel Rhoads

and his wife and daughter Elizabeth are all dead. Naomi Rhoads is also deceased. Charles Esrey was thrown from a horse while in a state of intoxication and was killed instantly. John Hoffman is also deceased, Isaac Hoffman and Phineas Palmer both died within a short time of each other; Mrs Palmer still remains in Rae St. keeping a boarding house, Ann is yet single. Phebe Helmbold is lately married Jess Voges of this place. West Philadelphia is so much improved since you left it you would hardly recognize it, there has been a great deal of building within the last three years, some very fine houses have been erected, the main street is lighted with lamps; Chestnut St. is also lighted by individuals, I cannot say whether there is much improvement or not at Haddington as I have not been there for several years.

James Rhoads was married and buried his wife in the space of a year, I might continue until I filled this sheet and could chronicle all the dea s that have occurred among our acquaintances

I have never received but five letters from you and I have answered every one of them, a year or two ago there was one advertised in the paper directed to Thomas, which we got, I think the reason we have not gotten them is they have not been properly directed, the one I just received is directed wrong and I cannot conceive how it came to hand; the postage was only 10 cts, please be careful how you direct your letters so I may not fail to get them. Will you please give me the name of the person you board with, while at Ellicottville in case anything should occur, we may know where to direct a letter in your absence, I should have come out during the Summer vacation if had known where to find you. Write soon and believe me to be yours

Affectionate Sister
Anna W. Gaucher

Direct to
West Philadelphia
Philadelphia Co, Pennsylvania

West Philada June 26th 1847.

Dear Brother

I take the present opportunity of writing, and must confess I know not what to say except that this is our Brother Thomas's birthday which completes his 35 years of age, this day one month will be mine. I have neither seen nor heard from Thomas since the evening we parted at Aunt Harriet's, nor from Harriet either. Sister Maria removed to Frankford the next week after you left. I think she boards with — Cousin Marcus Boon brother of Jacob at Hook, she is very comfortably situated. Our cousins at Hook regret very much that you did not stay longer with them. I have seen Aunt lately she has had several chills, Hannah is quite well and asks have you written, her brother Thomas Keen has removed to Louisville to take charge of a Baptist Church (two weeks ago Augustus was as crazy as he could be was very noisy) The weather here has been so remarkably cool that I have the chills again they have made me wretched I dare not go out of doors after sun set. you will perceive I cannot get to visit any of our friends. I had intended to have visited Sister Maria but felt so very weak thought

it would be best to postpone my visit until vacation, which will commence yesterday four weeks, I never wished so much for rest. we expect to have six weeks, if I had anyone to go with I should like to go to the sea shore or some distance from home perhaps change of place might effect what medicine will not. it is very nearly five years that I have had the chills. I expected that you would have written as soon as you returned to inform us whether you got back safely. I am called to tea therefore must stop for the present. today is very hot the thermometer stands at 98 deg in the shade.
Saturday evening 6 o'clock

June 27th

I will now conclude what was commenced yesterday. there is nothing of much interest at present. a man last week had a wire stretched across the Schuylkill river and succeeded in walking across the wire on it. he attempted to do so once before but when he had very nearly reached the shore some person ran against the wire, precipitated him into the river. I understood he was hurt. The President James K Polk made a visit to Philadelphia last week. I did not go to see him, have no curiosity see him. Today is very hot and clear, we feel the heat more than at other times at the same season, because the whole spring has been so cold we have fire until the last week

I shall not write until after vacation when perhaps I shall be able to write something that will be interesting. write as soon as convenient

Affectionately
Anna W. Goucher

Sunday afternoon 4 O'Clock

Dear Brother

As I have not received an answer to my letter dated June 26th, it was suggested to my mind as I had leisure this afternoon, that I could not employ myself better than sending you the current news, we have very hot, and dry weather at present, there has been comparatively little rain this season, although we have had much cloudy weather, and we think we shall have a fine rain, it passes away to some other place according to the best information I can get there is abundant rain in Chester County and many other places not far distant. I paid a visit to our Cousin Boon's at Hook, where I spent three days ending the 4th of July. They all inquired particularly if you had written, and were anxious to hear from you. Elizabeth had been sick, but was better, our Sister Maria has been quite sick but had quite recovered, I left her at Hook. she intends remaining there for some time to recruit having had a Bilious attack. I also saw Sister Harriet on the 4th at Mt. Zion church she was well as usual. There is nothing transpiring at present that would be interesting to you, or if there is I do not hear it, have not seen Thomas since you left, nor heard from him. Aunt Harriet has had and now

has a great deal of trouble with Augustus, as he has become unmanageable. he has made three attacks upon Dr. Pleasants, the last time was last Thursday evening, if his mother had not caught him just as he struck at the Doctor and held him with all her strength, and begging the Dr. to run into the nearest house, until she could prevail on Augustus to go into the house with her which he did after much persuasion, it was with the greatest difficulty she could keep him in, he had to be constantly watched, to keep him from going into the street. he swears vengence against Pleasants, and this man has given Aunt H. only until tomorrow to have him put in safe keeping, or he will swear his life against Augustus, when she will have to give security, and after that, should he violate the peace to have him sent to the Alms House as Insane. I think the Doctor has acted very unkindly towards Aunt in giving so short a time to make arrangements, but he will not do anything saying that his family is in danger, that he would be willing to run, but he fears for the safety of his family. Tomorrow Augustus will be sent to the Blockley Insane Hospital where he will remain until further arrange-

ments, or until he gets better. I have forgotten to say that since Thursday evening he has had his reason, but appears very melancholy, has not said a single word about his conduct, which he I always has done before and remarked how badly he felt afterwards. For some time back he has been persuading his mother to move away from this place, he would like her to remove to the West, or to the country. If she could do so it appears to me it would be much better. it is my opinion that she will not live long as she is weighed down with sorrow and grief, she appears to have a double portion. I dread very much to see tomorrow, as her son will have to be taken by force, he being very strong, and will be very boisterous. I dread the consequence as Aunt is very nervous and has lost so much sleep watching him, that she looks dreadful. I expect she will have a severe spell of sickness she has had chills and Cholera morbus until she looks very badly, she has not eaten anything for several days, if you should see her son Thomas F. Een inform him. I intend to write to him however tomorrow, he has removed to Louisville, Kentucky. I think it would be something to his credit to come home and try to comfort his affected mother or

assist her in some way. I forgot to mention that his board in the Hospital will be $3.50 per week, and no hopes of his ever recovering as the disease has come on so gradually, so the Physician says, however I hope for the best, the disease is Hereditary on his Father's side.

Sunday afternoon
July 18th 1847

Affectionately yours
Anna W. Goucher

(Same inclosure)

West Philada July 1847

Dear Brother

Our vacation commences on the 23rd and continues until 1st Sept. I shall be very glad as I very much need rest, I would almost be tempted to come out to Ellistaville if there was any one to accompany me. I have no doubt such a journey would be a great advantage to me. I have not made any arrangement as yet, it is probable I shall not go from home, as it rest that is most needed, on Friday I visited the Academy of fine arts, and strained the nerves of my eyes so much that it pains me to use them. there are some very fine paintings in the collection, from the best artists, Mary Fisher is not yet married. Bisbing the man we were laughing about, is married to a Miss Town. he lived a widower about 5 months so you perceive I have missed my carriage and piano, what a miss this is.

Friday 24th, We closed school yesterday at 11 O'Clock as I was so very sick that I could not sit up having had a chill the night before. have had several from being exposed so much having been out in the evenings at Aunt Harriet's now I may suffer and have no one to sympathize with me, tonight I shall have another have just got out of bed to finish this. my head is very bad. I have taken a severe cold and am sore from head to foot. Augustus was put in the Pennsylvania Hospital on Tuesday. Several men that he knew came in a dearborn and asked him to go with them to look for work, I do not what resistance he made, as the men would not inform his mother; my sickness is owing to being there so much We had a splendid to day and last night but the weather while I am writing it looks like pouring. I close by saying I hope you will write as soon as you can. I hope you are well. do not stay in the south if you find that you are in danger.

With Esteem
Anna W. Goucher

Friday afternoon 30th

West Philad^a August 16, 1847

Dear Brother

I recived yours, dated the 6th on Friday at noon, and would have answered it the same day but the family is making preparations to move, which has prevented me doing as I would have desired. I closed school the 23rd of July at 11o'c, being unable to sit up any longer, having the Intermittent fever. I was very sick for several days previously having a chill every day. I thought that possibly I could stay at the school room until evening, provided I had a person to teach some of the classes but I found it impossible. I was very sick for three days and was just able to come downstairs when Cousin William Boon came for me to come and assist in nursing Sister Maria. she was there on a visit and was taken very sudden with Dysentery, she would not consent to have a Physician, so I was obliged to go with him. when I arrived there found her very low, I did everything for her that I possibly could until Monday Morning, I then told her that we had done all that we could for her, and I would send for a Physician, which I did. she continued very low until the next Friday when a change took place for the better,

for eight days she never ate a mouthful, she lived on the medicine, and drank Sago. It was very unfortunate for me as I was so very and the day before I was sent for had employed another Doctor, in order to see whether any thing could be done to relieve me of the dreadful pain in my side, am at present taking the Homopathic medicine, which has given me some relief, have not had a chill since I have taken of this medicine. I would leave the School forever if there was any way for me to make a living, but I cannot sit to sew half a day at a time. I need some employment that is not so confining, and also not expose to the inclemency of the weather. I believe I would get well were it not for the constant exposure. I will try the school until next spring if I get no worse; then if there is no change I will let the consequence be what it may, it is enough at any rate to break down the strongest constitution, it wears out the mind as well as the body. I should like very much to come out to Elliotsville, but it will be impossible this season as the School opens the 1st of September, which will be here before I am ready. am very sorry

to hear you have so sore a hand, did not understand you exactly, what was the matter with it, but hope it will soon be better. You speak of going south, would it not be better to defer going yet, until the sickly season is over; the yellow fever is raging at Orleans as you will see by the latest news; 17 deaths in a day at the Hospital. I hope you will consider the consequence and not risk your life by going yet a while, what signifies making money if we endanger life, we might as well have some comfort as we pass along, as we can take nothing with us And if we have anything to have, none will thank us.

Augustus is still at the Pennsylvania Hospital, not any better. Aunt Harriet and Hannah are well, Boons and Fishers are all well. There is a great deal of sickness, dysentery, which has proved very fatal to children. I spoke of moving, it is about a square from this on the Front St. You perceive I made a shocking mistake in writing on the wrong page and cannot remedy it. will close by saying, hope you will be careful of yourself. Write at least once a month, as I shall be to hear about your hand and also your health.

Monday evening 5 o'clock

Affectionately
Anna W. Goucher

West Philada., June 11, 1848.

Dear Brother

I feel ashamed, and astonished that I have not written before, but hope however you will pardon me this time and promise to do better in the future, my time has been very much engaged in preparing my scholars for a public examination. This is a great trial but has to be submitted to, as it is the order of the Board of Directors. To a person of a retiring or diffident make to occasions a good deal of anxiety and nervous excitement, which at present I am not prepared, for not being very well, but not bedfast. I feel very grateful to you for the kind sympathy expressed in your last letter. of trying to obtain a home for us in our old days. should we live to attain old age. I hope you may be successful in all your undertakings, and live to enjoy the reward of your labour. The last time I heard from our sisters they were well, all our relatives at Hook were well the last accounts I had. The last letter Aunt received from William, stated that he was far gone in consumption, he thought past recovery. it is quite possible that he is no more I have no news that would be interesting to you except to record several deaths of persons

you once knew, namely Jacob Hoffman a few weeks ago, lately Charles Ludom and Doctor Brookfield. I have no news from Haddington I do not remember whether I told you that George Ludwick, was injured by falling under the cars so that his arm had to be taken off at the Hospital, he has returned home but a short time since, having been there several months.

Aunt Harriet and Hannah are well and wish to be remembered to you. Augustus has been at home for two months, but has become so very troublesome he will have to be sent back to the Hospital.

There is a great deal of building going on at present. the family I board with is building close by where we live, The Whig Convention has been held the past week in Philadelphia, to nominate a candidate for the Presidency. I believe have taken up Gen. Taylor Democrats, Gen'l Cass. I simply repeat this as current news of the day. Write as soon as convenient, with the full assurance that I will be prompt in answering your letters in future,

Very Affectionately
Anna W. Goucher

West Philad'a Aug 20th 1848.

Dear Brother

I received your letter on Tuesday the 8th inst, and did not answer then as I was going to Hook on a visit that day. I expected Susan Boon to call for me at 12 o'clock, and was so much hurried that I could not write, while there, had no opportunity to do so. Our Cousins are all well, and very busy. Aunt Fisher, and family are well, they all wish to be remembered to you, everything is going on as formerly, no change having taken place since you left that I have any knowledge of. Jacob Tribes, Job and Mary Holmes are deceased formerly residents of Hook. Sister Maria, was at Boons' all the time I was there, she is not very well, but not confined to her bed. her constitution which was naturally very strong, is completely wrecked by her imprudence in performing more than her strength would guarantee. Harriet is well as usual. I have heard from our brother and feel sorry, and reluctant to convey the sad intelligence. I have understood that he has actually become intemperate, I would much rather have heard of his death. how lamentably true, the Proverb (evil communication

and associations corrupt our hearts and taint us so that we slide almost imperceptibly into their habits, before we are aware of it. I feel completely discouraged and cast down when I reflect how he is fallen, and consequently what his end will be if he persists in his present course.
Aunt Harriet and Hannah are well and wish to be remembered to you, Augustus, has been at home for several months, without any change for the better. I should like very much if it was in my power to write you some more cheering intelligence, but cannot at present. I feel sorry to hear you have not been well. I have learned to sympathize with those who suffer either in body or mind, having experienced so much of both, I visited Mrs. Palmer, a short time since she was well, she is not married yet.
I have been clear of chills for a year, and feel very well at present, for which I feel very grateful, Our vacation ends this week, when I shall have to return to my arduous duties, They are heavy and severe. I often feel like giving up my situation, my responsibilities being so very great. Charles, endeavor to shun all evil, particularly, the intoxicating bowl, so that if we never meet in this world we may meet in Heaven, where all our troubles and trials will have an end and where we can be free from sorrow and pain. I hope this will be our happy lot.

Farewell
Your affectionate Sister
Anna W. Gaucher